

H.V. NO. 5140 AN ACT CONCERNONG HAND HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS IN STATE OF CONNECTICUT

To Whom It May Concern:

I am supporting the Raised Bill HB 5140 protecting Horseshoe Crabs and prohibiting their harvesting along CT Shoreline.

Since 2007 I had a residence in Guilford with access to beach on Trolley Road.

During this time I have watch and even tried to stop the individuals harvesting bulk amounts of these wonderful creatures from our beach during and after hours. I have requested documentation as to their rights to harvest and they resist the request. I have contacted local police for help and was advised that unless it was during the illegal times, they cannot stop them from harvesting the Horseshoe Crabs. I have seen and reported to local police when they are here late at night with flood and flash lights harvesting. In our neighborhood when we know they are collecting many come to beach and help get them back into the water but that is only a temporary fix for that moment.

During these 15 years the number of crabs that come onto our beach is significantly dwindling. If this continues to go on in Connecticut the most beautiful oldest species on earth will become distinct. I hope it doesn't come to that and Connecticut lawmakers can band this from happening.

Debra Garre

6 Waterside Drive

Guilford, CT 06437

